

# dean's message

FOR THOSE OF US getting nearer to retirement age, the downward spiral of the stock market and declines in the global economy are certainly reason for pause. People across the country are tightening their belts and cutting costs



to address economic shortfalls. We are feeling a similar pinch at the School of Public Health, bracing for a 4 percent cut from our core budget this year and the threat of one perhaps two or more times larger next year.

Given that in just 12 years the United States will be short approximately 250,000 trained public health workers, we must address the workforce crisis now. We can't be slowed by budget shortfalls; instead we must redouble our fundraising efforts to ensure that we can continue to provide top-notch public health training to interested students. Through the Public Health Minor (see page 12), we are introducing UCLA undergraduates to the field and this year doubled our enrollment due to overwhelming interest. We have also broadened our recruiting efforts, traveling nationally to educate potential students about what we have to offer. There is the interest and will from students who want to enter the field of public health. The onus is on us to take financial considerations out of the equation of whether a student is able to enroll in our program.

At the School of Public Health we consider ourselves fortunate to have the best and brightest scientists and scholars serving on our faculty. Through their innovative work we continue to bring in significant resources by way of contracts and grants, as illustrated by the chart on the right. Most recently, UCLA and a dozen collaborating institutions were awarded a grant to create the University of California Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology. Rounding out our portfolio as one of the leaders in environmental health, the school continues to be at the forefront in studying the health effects of climate change and how communities can be designed and developed to make their residents healthier – and now we will assess the health effects of nanotechnology. Our cover story (see page 16) looks in depth at how our country can move toward a sustainable environment and what we are doing to ensure the \$1 trillion nanotech industry doesn't bring unintended adverse health consequences.

Despite trying economic times, we recently learned that Congress allocated an additional \$5 million for a new high speed laboratory at the school. This brings the total to \$30 million (\$21 million federal and \$9 million from the State of California) allocated to create a laboratory network with the capacity

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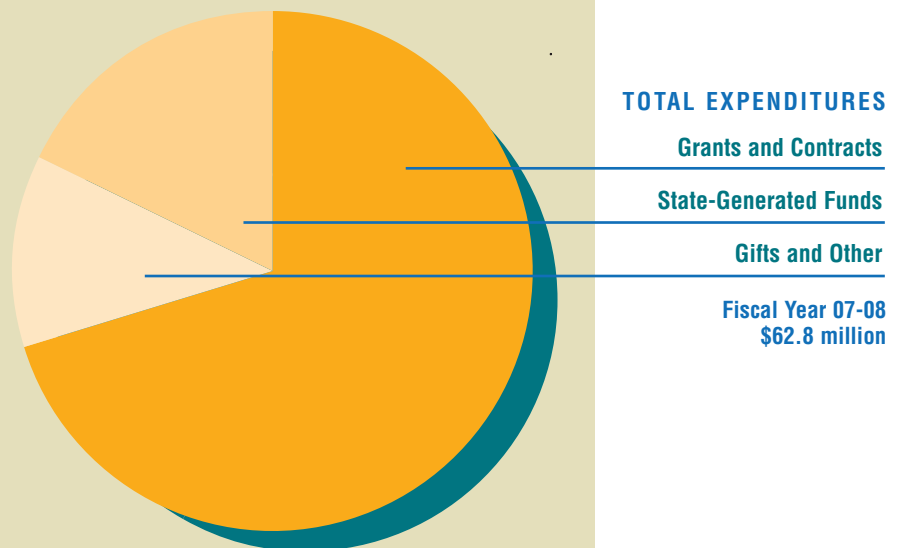
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to quickly analyze and process high quantities of biological samples, improving the nation's ability to respond to an avian flu outbreak, bioterrorist attack or other rapidly emerging public health threats. When we began to look for support for this critical project, we told members of Congress that we would request only four years of core funding to establish the lab. True to our word, the latest \$5 million is the final funding for the lab build-out. I'd like to thank Dean's Advisory Board member Cindy Horn for her tireless efforts. She was instrumental in taking the vision of one of our faculty members (Dr. Scott Layne, professor in the Department of Epidemiology) and making it a reality. We anticipate the lab will be operational in mid-2009.

Times are tight, but our work is important enough that we will continue to seek and secure gifts and endowments from our alumni and friends that will enable us to continue to recruit and retain a world-class faculty and provide students every opportunity to enter what promises to be one of the most sought-after careers in the coming decades.

Linda Rosenstock, M.D., M.P.H.  
Dean



**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

**Grants and Contracts**

**State-Generated Funds**

**Gifts and Other**

**Fiscal Year 07-08  
\$62.8 million**